AIR Station, Pithoragarh

†813. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the AIR Station of Pithoragarh (Uttaranchal) has become operational;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay and the corrective steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. AIR Station at Pithoragarh has been operational since 10.6.1997.

(c) Does not arise.

Manufacturing of Set Top Box

814. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Set Top Box (STB) is indigenously manufactured in the country;

(b) if not, whether the STBs would be imported for which the import duty has been reduced from 46 per cent to 5 per cent;

(c) whether Government are aware that the imported digital STBs (MPEG-2) which Government are going to provide are technologically an outdated one;

(d) if so, whether the people would be interested rather forced to buy these outdated STBs with the change to the fibre optic cables; and

(e) whether Government are in hurry to force Conditional Access System in the cable network?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b)

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Representatives of CETMA have submitted that indigenous manufacturing of digital STBs is yet to gain momentum. The rationalization of import duty on components of STB by the Government is likely to give a boost to the indigenous industry.

(c) and (d) For Commercial Digital Television broadcasting, worldwide, the compression standard used is MPEG-2 for all delivery platforms *i.e.* satellite, cable and terrestrial while MPEG-4 is not used for commercial television broadcast. BIS has adopted international cable TV standards known as DVBC, which is based on MPEG-Z technology. This is widely in use and is not outdated.

(e) The implementation of CAS is being done in a planned and phased manner. It will commence in specified zones, in the three metros of Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata and at one go in Chennai from September 1, 2003.

DTT technology to motorists

815. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that DD is working towards making DTT technology available to the motorists;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any consultations have been made in this regard with the people concerned for developing TVs to suit this purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Doordarshan has set up four digital transmitters at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai on an experimental service. Each of these transmitters is transmitting 5 different TV programmes and 2 Radio programmes (as compared to one TV programme in case of analog transmitters). Doordarshan has no plan to provide TV reception to motorists, through these transmitters.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.